

Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations
Meeting Minutes
March 8, 2017

A meeting of the Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations (the JLC) was held on March 8, 2017, at the James Monroe Building, 101 N. 14th St., Richmond.

Members Present

- Harold Barton, Air Force Association
- Rick Oertel, American Legion
- Richard Mansfield, AMVETS
- Robert Sempek, Association of the United States Army
- Curtis Jennings, Disabled American Veterans
- William Ashton, Fleet Reserve Association
- Tim Whitmore, Korean War Veterans Association
- Robert Herbert, Legion of Valor
- John Clickener, Marine Corps League
- Frank Wickersham, Military Officers Association of America
- Jim Cuthbertson, Military Order of the Purple Heart
- William Barrett, Military Order of the World Wars
- Glenn Rodriguez, Navy Seabee Veterans of America
- David Sitler, Reserve Officers Association
- Perry Taylor, Roanoke Valley Veterans Council
- Dan Boyer, Veterans of Foreign Wars
- Jim Icenhour, Chairman, Board of Veterans Services
- Rich Schollmann, Chairman, Veterans Services Foundation
- Steven Combs, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Veterans Services, representing Commissioner John L. Newby II

Members Absent

- Kenneth Shelton, Fifth Baptist Veterans Ministry
- Lauren Augustine, Iraq & Afghanistan Veterans of America
- Dan Dennison, National Association for Uniformed Services
- Jon Ostrowski, Non Commissioned Officers Association
- Raymond Kenney, Paralyzed Veterans of America
- Charles Montgomery, Vietnam Veterans of America
- Robert Huffman, Virginia Army/Air National Guard Enlisted Association
- Adam Provost, Virginia National Guard Association
- Marie Juliano, Women Marines Association

Alternates Present (representing their VSO)

- Chip Moran, National Association for Uniformed Services
- Rhonda Killmon, Non Commissioned Officers Association
- George Corbett, Vietnam Veterans of America

- Robert Barnette, Virginia Army/Air National Guard Enlisted Association
- Mike Anliker, Virginia National Guard Association

Alternates Present (not representing their VSO)

- John Cooper, AMVETS
- Frank Driscoll, Navy Seabee Veterans of America

Commonwealth of Virginia Officials Present

- Delegate Rich Anderson
- Tommy Herbert, Office of Delegate Rich Anderson
- Christina Barrille, Department of Military Affairs
- Leslie Frazier, Office of the Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs
- Carrie Ann Alford, DVS
- Tom Herthel, DVS
- Karla Boughey, DVS
- Mike Handwerker, DVS
- Tony Lee, DVS
- Glendalynn Glover, DVS
- Brian Pickral, DVS

Others Present

- Johnny Johnson, Vice Chairman, BVS
- Karen Jeffries, Navy Mutual Aid Association
- John Woyansky, American Legion
- Jack Hilgers

Items included in the Agenda Packet

Agenda

2017 Roster of Membership

December 21, 2016 meeting minutes (Agenda Item IV)

January 12, 2017 Conference minutes (Agenda Item IV)

Reports (Agenda Item V)

- Board of Veterans Services
- Veterans Services Foundation

Report on 2017 JLC Initiatives (Agenda Item VIIb)

New Business (Agenda Item VIII)

- 2017 Work Plan
- Potential 2018 JLC initiatives
- JLC Constitution (for review – 2 changes)

Opening, Pledge of Allegiance, Invocation & Thoughts

Chairman Harold “Bart” Barton called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m., and led the Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chaplain L. T. “Tim” Whitmore delivered an opening prayer.

Chairman Barton opened with two housekeeping announcements for the members about ordering JLC business cards and timely R.s.v.p.'s to DVS before each meeting.

Roll Call of VSOs, Quorum Determination, Approval of the Agenda, and Introduction of Guests

The roll was called, and 17 of the 25 Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs) represented on the Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations (the JLC) were recorded as being represented at the time of the roll call. A quorum was determined. Mr. Jim Icenhour, the Chairman of the Board of Veterans Services (BVS); Mr. Rich Schollmann, the Chairman of the Veterans Services Foundation (VSF); and DVS Deputy Commissioner Steven Combs, representing Commissioner John L. Newby II were recorded as present. 4 additional VSO representatives arrived shortly after roll was called bringing the total attendance to 22 of 25.

Mr. Dan Boyer made a **motion, seconded** by Mr. John Clickener to approve the meeting agenda, which is included as *Attachment 1*.

Chairman Barton asked Ms. Alford to introduce the guests. Their names and organizations are recorded above. Chairman Barton welcomed them to the meeting.

Approve December 21, 2016 and January 12, 2017 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Tim Whitmore made a **motion, seconded** by Mr. George Corbett, to approve both the minutes of the December 21, 2016 meeting as drafted, and the minutes of the January 12, 2017 JLC conference as drafted. The motions carried **unanimously**.

Reports

Board of Veterans Services

Board of Veterans Services (BVS) Chairman Jim Icenhour gave the BVS report (*Attachment 2*).

Veterans Services Foundation

Veterans Services Foundation (VSF) Chairman Rich Schollmann gave the VSF report (*Attachment 3*).

Virginia Military Advisory Council

Mr. Bill Barrett stated that he still wasn't receiving emails from the Virginia Military Advisory Council (VMAC). Ms. Leslie Frazier said she had passed along his email but would double check with Mr. Mike Coleman. The VMAC will meet on April 25th and nothing formal has been sent out yet. Mr. Barrett said he would plan on attending and report back at the May JLC meeting.

State Board of Elections

Mr. Frank Wickersham updated the JLC on SB1490, patroned by Sen. DeSteph, for the electronic return of overseas military ballots, which was JLC priority 2017-07. The bill made it out of the Senate but then died in the House Privileges & Elections' Elections Subcommittee since the subcommittee did not meet after Crossover Day and before the end of the General

Assembly. The issue seems to be a lack of support from the SBE and Mr. Wickersham feels the issue may not even need further legislation, only a budget amendment with the right support from the new Administration and Secretary, who will come into office in 2018. Ms. Alford agreed that the issue is gaining support in the legislature and the barrier seems to be with the SBE and certain officials being skittish for reasons that have nothing directly to do with this policy initiative or SB1490. She also said Senator DeSteph will keep carrying the bill and working on it until it passes.

Virginia War Memorial Board

In Marie Juliano's absence, no report was given.

Hampton Drug Court Veterans Tract Advisory Council

Mr. Rich Mansfield stated that there was nothing new to report.

Fairfax County Veterans Treatment Docket Steering Committee

In the absence of both Mr. Dan Dennison and Ms. Lauren Augustine, Ms. Alford informed the JLC that things in Fairfax were going well and they had visitors from Great Britain who were there to observe the docket. Their visit coincided with the grand opening of the Springfield Benefits Office and court staff brought the British visitors to the opening and arranged for them to speak to the Governor and Secretary. They went back home to England very impressed with the Fairfax veteran treatment docket and DVS.

DVS Report

Deputy Commissioner Steven Combs gave an update on DVS service lines on behalf of Commissioner Newby. Mr. Combs gave an update on the War Memorial expansion project – DVS is checking off all the boxes and is getting close to a ground breaking. He said he should have information for the JLC later this year, probably in the fall.

He gave an update on the expansion project at the Horton Cemetery in Suffolk, which was covered more thoroughly in Ms. Alford presentation.

He gave an update on VETE's new programs – MMAC and JTEST-AI "SkillsBridge." MMAC now has 3 hires and several more in the pipeline. JTEST-AI graduated its first class and several have already been offered jobs and the rest are in the interviewing process.

He also gave an update on the new Veteran Care Centers and told the group that he would be part of a public forum on Monday, March 13 at Kellam High School in Virginia Beach which will cover the Hampton Roads VCC. He invited the members to attend the meeting.

Mr. Cuthbertson asked about the groundbreaking for the VCCs and the funds being released. Mr. Combs answered that the groundbreakings are tentatively scheduled for Fall 2017. The funds are being released as they go through each phase of the project.

Mr. Barton asked about the Hampton VAMC and funding ahead of VCCs. Mr. Combs said that Mr. Barton was referring to a new facility that the Hampton VA is looking at building and it is separate but complimentary to DVS's goals for our VCC and it will be a very good thing for

them to have a second facility.

Update on BVS Section

Mr. Tom Herthel, Benefits Director, gave an update on the Benefits Section and thanked the JLC members for all their support over the past several years. Benefits now has the money needed, and staff turnover is due to normal reasons for staff to leave. Attrition of trained staff has ended thanks to training and competitive salaries.

He gave an update on the new offices and all current offices have all been updated or relocated. 4 new offices will be opening in 2017 – Manassas, Loudoun County, Williamsburg and the Pentagon. He gave an update on their partnership with VVFS and staff relocating to some of their offices in the next year. He gave an update on the claims process and adjudication process.

Mr. Bill Ashton asked about education benefits and BeneVets. Mr. Herthel said that it only began in January that VSRs could track ed benefits in BeneVets and there is not a lot of training yet, but his VSRs can help with that.

Mr. Tim Whitmore asked about appointment availability. Mr. Herthel said that all his offices have walk-in availability and specific walk-in hours. The Virginia Beach office is the busiest with walk-ins and veterans line up hours ahead of the office opening and he is looking at the feasibility of opening a 2nd office in Virginia Beach.

The presentation was distributed to the members after the meeting.

Overview of the 2017 General Assembly Session

Ms. Alford thanked the JLC members for all they had done for the Department of Veterans Services (DVS) and for their support during the 2017 General Assembly session. She thanked Mr. David Sitler and Mr. Bob Sempek in particular for their great assistance during Session and being in the GAB at hearings and meetings to represent the JLC.

She gave a power point presentation, which included an overview of the 7 JLC 2017 Initiatives, other veteran and military-related bills that passed in the 2017 General Assembly session, and gave a full report on the final outcome of the DVS budget amendments and where the DVS budget stands half way through the biennial budget.

The presentation was distributed to the members via email after the meeting.

Several JLC members asked questions about the status of the new care centers, war memorial funding and other points of clarification. Ms. Alford answered the questions to the satisfaction of the members.

Mr. Sitler, Legislative Committee Chair, gave a more in-depth review of the 7 JLC 2017 Initiatives. (*Attachment 4*) He stated that despite only one initiative passing, there was good work done and progress made during the session with several of the policy initiatives.

New Business

Review of the 2017 JLC Work Plan

During a discussion on the JLC legislative process, it was agreed that the JLC would, once again, become more active in the selection of patrons and sponsors for its legislative initiatives. Several changes were made to the previously approved work plan to track this action. Chairman Barton offered three amendments to the work plan, which had been approved at the December 21, 2016 meeting. It includes addition to the “November & December” section:

- Work selection of patrons/co-patrons and meet with GA and Executive

And one addition to the “December 20 Meeting” section:

- Review list of approved patrons

Mr. Dan Boyer made a **motion, seconded** by Mr. Rich Mansfield, to adopt the changes.

Mr. Barton reminded the members of the process for proposing and sponsoring policy initiatives needs to start earlier and sponsor VSOs need to be more proactive about reaching out to legislators. Mr. Barton and Ms. Alford clarified for the group that with initiatives that are not picked up by the Governor or Secretary the JLC can approach legislators to be bill patrons and Ms. Alford can give advice and counsel on which legislators to approach for the various policy initiatives. Only when JLC policy initiatives become Governor’s bill(s) or Secretary’s bill(s) does the JLC need to let the Governor’s policy team choose the patron, which is done with input from DVS.

Mr. Chip Moran mentioned that the JLC Chairman used to go and meet with the Governor and lobby for any initiative that would need a budget amendment to be included in the introduced budget. Mr. Barton said he could do that.

Initial review/discussion of potential 2018 JLC Initiatives

Mr. Sitler and Ms. Alford both suggested the JLC examine refining initiatives that haven’t passed, be proactive on working with legislators and approach specific legislators to be patrons.

Ms. Alford said that while she could only give advice to the JLC, she strongly recommends refining initiatives that have been before the GA for a couple of cycles, and ask legislators for advice to improve the policy initiatives so they’re more likely to pass, whether it’s minor changes to language, or the idea, or enacting it in steps to get the GA to support it.

Delegate Anderson stood up and said he agreed with Ms. Alford and said that as a member of the Appropriations committee and co-chair of the Military & Veterans Caucus he would be happy to help out and get them in touch with fellow legislators who support veterans issues.

Mr. Sitler reviewed three bills that were offered in 2017 but didn’t pass as potential 2018 JLC initiatives. (*Attachment 5*) Ms. Alford said one of the patrons had expressed interest in working with the JLC and all three bills fall in line with policies that the JLC has supported in the past.

Mr. Sitler asked the members to get their drafts in as soon as possible, by May at the latest, as they will be reviewed at the May 31 meeting.

Report of the Constitution and By-Laws Review Committee

Mr. Rich Mansfield delivered the report of the Constitution and By-Laws Committee.

Mr. Mansfield offered two amendments: one to the JLC Constitution – page 1, Article I – Organization. The motion is to amend the language and add a paragraph 4. Mission Statement. This was at the request of Chairman Barton since the mission statement is used in several reports and other documents to the Governor and General Assembly, but is not currently in the Constitution.

One amendment to the By-Laws, page 2, Article III – Committees. The motion is to amend the language for: 1. Constitution and By-Laws Review Committee. Changing “Every two years” to “Every year”.

He stated that the amendments were being offered to the members for their review and will be voted on at the next meeting, May 31. (*Attachment 6*)

Other New Business and open discussion

Mr. Frank Wickersham stood and made a motion to introduce a special line item. The Chair recognized Mr. Wickersham who made a brief speech, and passed out copies of HJR840, (*Attachment 7*) which is a Commending Resolution by Del. Cox, on the retirement of Mr. Jack Hilgers. He noted that the Joint Resolution had been approved by both Houses of the General Assembly and will be presented to Mr. Hilgers at the upcoming meeting of the VSF. The Members stood in his honor and demonstrated their appreciation for the service of Mr. Hilgers. The Chairman stated that Jack had been a good friend of the JLC and had been a ready source of knowledge and experience for the Chairman personally. The Chairman reflected that Jack will be truly missed. Mr. Wickersham requested the JLC endorse HJR840 by voice acclamation and it was approved unanimously.

Delegate Anderson introduced his new Legislative Assistant, Tommy Herbert, to the JLC. Ms. Alford told the JLC that Mr. Herbert had been a great help to her during Session and she thanked him for all his hard work for Del. Anderson, the Military & Veterans Caucus and helping DVS throughout the Session.

Mr. Frank Driscoll made a statement in acknowledgement of the 75th Anniversary of the Navy Seabee Veterans of America.

Ms. Alford thanked everyone who attended the Military Appreciation Night during session. The event was held at the Virginia War Memorial and everyone enjoyed themselves so much there are already plans to have it there again next year. After the reception a documentary, ***Thank You For Your Service***, was shown in VMI Hall. The film covers the topic of veterans and mental health and Ms. Alford noted that a couple of VSOs have offered to host screenings in Virginia and if any others would like to do so, she can connect them with the film makers.

Public Comment

There were no individuals seeking to make public comment.

Closing Remarks

Chairman Barton reminded the members that the next meeting will be held May 31 at the National D-Day Memorial Visitors Center in Bedford, VA. Meeting will start at 10 a.m.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the Council, the meeting adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

ATTACHMENT 1
Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations
James Monroe Building
101 N. 14th St., 1st Floor, Richmond
March 8, 2017
10:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

PROPOSED AGENDA

- I. Opening and Pledge of Allegiance – *Bart Barton, JLC Chairman* (10:00 – 10:05)
 - II. Chaplain's Corner, Tim Whitmore, *JLC Chaplain* (10:05 – 10:10)
 - III. Roll call of VSOs, quorum determination, approval of agenda, and introduction of guests – *Bart Barton, JLC Chairman* (10:10 – 10:15)
 - IV. Approve December 21, 2016 meeting minutes and January 12, 2016 Conference minutes – *Bart Barton, JLC Chairman* (10:15 – 10:20)
 - V. Reports (10:20 – 10:45)
 - a. Board of Veterans Services – *Jim Icenhour, BVS Chairman*
 - b. Veterans Services Foundation – *Pat Webb, VSF Chairman*
 - c. VMAC, *Bill Barrett*
 - d. State Board of Elections, *Frank Wickersham*
 - e. Virginia War Memorial Board, *Marie Juliano*
 - f. Hampton Drug Court Veterans Tract Advisory Council, *Rich Mansfield*
 - g. Fairfax Veteran Treatment Docket, *Dan Dennison*
 - h. DVS Report, *John Newby, DVS Commissioner*
 - VI. Update on DVS Benefits Section, *Tom Herthel* (10:45-11:05)
 - BREAK (10 Minutes)
 - VII. Review of 2017 legislative session (11:15 – 11:45)
 - a. Status of Legislative Initiatives and other Veteran actions *Carrie Ann Alford, DVS Policy Director*
 - b. Review of Session by JLC Legislative Officer, *Dave Sitler*
 - VIII. New Business (11:45– 12:00)
 - a. Review 2017 Meeting Schedule & Work Plan, *Bart Barton, JLC Chairman*
 - b. Looking ahead: An initial review and discussion of potential 2018 JLC Initiatives, *Dave Sitler*
 - c. Report of the Constitution and By-Laws Review Committee, *Rich Mansfield*
 - d. Other New Business and Open Discussion – *Bart Barton, JLC Chairman*
 - IX. Public comment period – *Bart Barton, JLC Chairman* (12:00 – 12:10)
 - X. Closing remarks, Announcement of next meeting – *Bart Barton, JLC Chairman* (12:10 – 12:15)
 - XI. Adjourn (12:15)
- Lunch & Tour of New DVS HQ Office on 17th & 18th Floors to follow

ATTACHMENT 2

REPORT TO THE JOINT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL (JLC)

March 8, 2017

The Board of Veterans Services (BVS) met on November 17, 2016. The board heard an informative presentation by Virginia WWI and WWII Commemoration Commission Chairman, Delegate Kirk Cox, and Cheryl Jackson, Executive Director.

Ms. Robyn Jennings, Sitter & Barfoot Veterans Care Center (SBVCC) Administrator, welcomed the Board members and guests to SBVCC and delivered a presentation covering SBVCC services, census, and financials, and answered questions from several Board members on SBVCC operations and finances.

BVS also approved its' 2017 meeting dates and times:

Thursday, March 16, 2017

Virginia Veterans Cemetery, 10300 Pridesville Rd, Amelia

Thursday, June 22, 2017

Virginia War Memorial, 621 S Belvidere St, Richmond (Note: location may change depending on status of VWM construction project)

Thursday, November 16, 2017

Petersburg Freedom Support Center, 32 W Washington St, Petersburg

The BVS is made up of fourteen citizen members, five legislators, and three *ex officio* members. Board members are in regular contact with the Department of Veterans Services to provide policy input on key operational issues.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Icenhour
Chairman

ATTACHMENT 3

VETERANS SERVICES FOUNDATION REPORT TO Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations March 8, 2017

The Veterans Services Foundation (VSF) Board of Trustees has held one Development Committee work group meeting since the last JLC meeting on December 21, 2016. This work group met on February 15, 2017 at the Virginia War Memorial. The next VSF Board meeting is scheduled for March 22, 2017 at the American Legion office. The development work group discussed the many aspects of fundraising and how these ideas can be applied to VSF. Donor retention, outreach and a proposed FY18 budget was also discussed. No action was taken during the development work group; however, a comprehensive fundraising strategy will be discussed at the March 22nd VSF Board meeting.

On January 14, Pat Webb, the Foundation Chair, resigned from the Board due to family health issues. Under the Foundation bylaws, First Vice-Chair Richard Schollmann assumed the duties as the Foundation Chair. Also, on February 8, Senator Walter Stosch was appointed by the Senate Rules Committee to fill the remainder of Pat Webb's term.

As of January 31, 2017 VSF has received donations during FY17 of almost \$ 335,000, of which \$285,000 are for VVFS. Not reflected on the January 31, 2017 report is an \$185,000 donation from the Dominion Charity Classic for V3 which will be included in the February report. Overall individual donations are down. These concerns and possible solutions were put forward during the work group and will be a significant part of the development committee's discussion with the full Board in March.

On behalf of the Foundation Board of Trustees, I would like to recognize the outstanding outreach of all DVS activities and their fundraising event success. It could not have been accomplished without the work and dedication of the DVS staff.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for March 22, 2017 at the American Legion HQ. Items for the next meeting may include: (1) review VSF income, expenses, and fundraising events conducted during FY16; (2) discuss work group comprehensive strategy; (3) approve the 2nd Quarter FY17 VSF Financial Reports; (4) approve budget adjustments, if any; (5) Approve review of VSF-DVS Policies, if needed; (6) confirm dates and locations of FY18 Board meetings; (7) appoint a Nominating Committee.

Respectfully submitted,
Rich Schollmann
VSF Chairman

ATTACHMENT 4
Status of JLC 2017 Initiatives – as of March 8, 2017

Initiative	Recommendation	Status –
JLC 2016-01 <i>Virginia Veteran and Family Support Services</i>	That the Governor and General Assembly change the Code of Virginia to revise the charter of the VVFS; release \$393,494 to DVS in FY17; authorize 21 new positions in FY17 and FY18; and appropriate an additional \$700,000 (GF) in FY18 to convert VVFS to an all-state employee service delivery structure.	Introduced budget: \$610,128 plus the \$393,494 in the “lock box”. Additional Budget Amendment – N/A Legislation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HB2206 (Delegate Cox) 2/3: Passed House (95-0) 2/16: Passed Senate (40-0) 2/21: Sent to Governor
JLC 2016-02 <i>Virginia War Memorial</i>	That the Governor and General Assembly appropriate an additional \$100,000 (GF) FY18 to ensure the Virginia War Memorial has the resources necessary to accomplish its dual mission of honor and education.	Introduced budget: None Legislation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
JLC 2016-03 <i>Guard Income Tax Subtraction</i>	That the Governor and General Assembly increase the state income tax subtraction level for members of the Virginia National Guard from \$3,000 to \$5,000 per year.	Introduced budget: None Legislation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HB1397 (Delegate Fowler) 1/18: Laid on the Table
JLC 2016-04 <i>In-state tuition for all members of the Reserve Components</i>	That the Governor and the General Assembly change the eligibility for in-state tuition to include all members of the Virginia National Guard and the Reserve components, thus recognizing their service to the Commonwealth and treating them equally to the active components and veterans	Introduced budget: \$900,000 for VMI Legislation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HB1724 (Delegate Anderson) 2/1: Laid on the Table
JLC 2016-05 <i>Virginia Veteran Entrepreneurship Grant Pilot Program</i>	That the Governor and General Assembly approve legislation creating the <i>Virginia Veteran Entrepreneurship Grant Pilot Program</i> under the Department of Veterans Services and appropriate \$900,000 (GF) per year in FY18 and FY19 to award grants to companies that provide entrepreneurship training to veterans. Also, that the Board of Veterans Services (BVS) continue its work on veteran entrepreneurship and develop additional recommendations for consideration.	Introduced budget: \$900,000 for FY17 and FY18 Legislation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HB1841 (Delegate Stolle) 1/24: Reported out of General Laws and re-referred to Appropriations 2/7: Left in Appropriations • SB1114 (Senator McPike) 2/2: Passed By Indefinitely (16-0)
JLC 2016-06 <i>VMSDEP</i>	That the Governor and General Assembly remove the requirement that a veteran’s disability rating be combat related. Instead, a permanent service-connected disability rating of at least 90%, plus satisfaction of the other requirements currently in the Code, would qualify a veteran’s spouse or child for VMSDEP benefits.	Introduced budget: None Legislation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HB2357 (Delegate Torian) 2/1: Reported out of Education w/Amendment (21-0) 2/2: House rereferred to Appropriations 2/7: Left in Appropriations Budget Amendment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 144 #2h - \$900,000 in FY18
JLC 2016-07 <i>Electronic Ballot Return</i>	That the Governor and General Assembly enact legislation and provide budget support of a pilot program for the electronic return of absentee ballots by Virginia’s deployed military service members to enfranchise their voting privileges.	Introduced budget: None Legislation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SB1490 (Senator DeSteph) 2/2: Reported from Finance with Amendment (16-0) 2/7: Passed Senate (36-4) Assigned to House P&E, Elections SubCom 2/25: Left in committee

ATTACHMENT 5
Potential 2018 JLC Policy Initiatives

HOUSE	
BILL NUMBER	LIS SUMMARY
<u>HB 1676 - Collins - Individual income tax; subtraction for National Guard wages.</u>	Individual income tax; subtraction for National Guard wages. Provides that a Virginia resident shall be eligible for a subtraction for wages earned in service in the National Guard of another state if the resident's out-of-state service is due to the taxpayer's military occupational specialty requirements.
<u>HB 1769 - Dudenhefer - Malicious bodily injury to or pointing of laser at members of United States Armed Forces.</u>	Malicious bodily injury to or pointing of laser at members of United States Armed Forces. The bill adds members of the United States Armed Forces, including members of the Virginia National Guard, to the list of persons the malicious or unlawful wounding of whom, or the pointing of a laser at whom, is subject to an enhanced penalty.
<u>HB 2175 - Miyares - Income tax; subtraction for military veterans with a service-connected disability.</u>	Income tax; subtraction for military veterans with a service-connected disability. Establishes for taxable years beginning January 1, 2017, an individual income tax subtraction, for purposes of computing Virginia adjusted gross income, for the military retirement income of veterans with a 100 percent service-connected disability. The bill provides that the subtraction is available only for taxpayers whose federal adjusted gross income does not exceed 250 percent of the federal poverty level for a four-person household.

ATTACHMENT 6

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS

Constitution Amendment:

Article I - Organization

1. Organization Name. The name of this organization shall be the Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations, hereinafter referred to as the JLC or the Council.
2. Organization Membership. The Council shall be composed of one representative from each qualifying veterans service organizations or his/her designated alternate. Representatives shall be appointed by the Governor. The Commissioner of the Department of Veterans Services and the Chairmen of the Board of Veterans Services and Veterans Services Foundation shall serve as non-voting, *ex officio* members.
3. Location of Headquarters. The Headquarters of the JLC shall operate in a manner and place as determined by the Chair to be most effective. The office of the Commissioner of the Department of Veterans Services is available to the Chair and elected/appointed officials at their request.
4. Mission Statement. *The Council provides advice and assistance to the Governor, General Assembly and the Department of Veterans Services on matters of concern to the veterans community and provides a conduit of information to and from the veterans service organizations on policy and legislation, pending and enacted, as well as information on existing services.*

By-Laws Amendment:

Article III - Committees

1. Constitution and By-Laws Review Committee ~~Every two years~~ **Every year** the Chair shall appoint a Committee Chair and appropriate number of committee members to form a Constitution and By-Laws Review Committee which shall review the JLC Constitution and By-Laws and make recommendations for changes in accordance with the provisions of the JLC Constitution.
2. Legislative Objectives Committee. The purpose of the Legislative Objectives Committee is to promote the annual legislative agenda of the JLC and to perform other legislative duties as directed by the JLC Chair. Members shall be appointed to this committee by the JLC Chair to work under the leadership of the Legislative Officer. Sponsors and co-sponsors of legislative objectives shall be members of the Legislative Objectives Committee. If approved by the JLC, the Legislative Officer may appoint additional members to the committee.
3. Legislative Procedures Committee. The Legislative Procedures Committee shall develop procedural guidelines and schedules required to ensure appropriate interaction with members of the executive and legislative branches of state government through the Commissioner of the Department of Veterans Services. Members shall be appointed to this committee by the JLC Chair, in consultation with the Legislative and Assistant Legislative Officers, to work under the leadership of the Assistant Legislative Officer. The Legislative Officer shall be an ex officio voting member of the committee. To assure continuity and as determined by the JLC Chair, appointees shall serve on the committee for staggered terms of three years so the memberships do not all expire simultaneously.
4. Nominating Committee. Every year the JLC Chair shall appoint a Nominating Committee to recommend a slate of officers for the upcoming year. Membership shall be at the discretion of the JLC Chair, but will include the most recent past JLC Chair and a least one other prior JLC Chair if available.

ATTACHMENT 7

INTRODUCED

2017 SESSION

17104610D

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 840

Offered January 27, 2017

Commending Colonel John Jack William Hilgers, USMC, Ret.

Patrons—Cox, Stolle, Anderson, Bloxom, Boysko, Byron, Carr, Cole, Davis, Dudenhefer, Fariss, Fowler, Freitas, Habeeb, Heretick, Hope, Howell, Hugo, Ingram, Jones, Knight, Krizek, Landes, Leftwich, Lingamfelter, Massie, Minchew, Morefield, Mullin, O'Bannon, Peace, Pillion, Plum, Rasoul, Simon, Villanueva and Ware; Senators: Cosgrove, Deeds, DeSteph, Ebbin, Edwards, Hanger, Howell, Lewis, Peake, Reeves, Ruff, Stuart and Wagner

WHEREAS, Colonel John Jack William Hilgers, USMC, Ret., served with distinction in the United States Marine Corps for 31 years, demonstrating extraordinary leadership, professional skill, and unwavering courage and commitment to the defense of the United States; and

WHEREAS, Jack Hilgers, as a captain in the Marine Corps during the Vietnam War, was awarded the Navy Cross for extraordinary heroism as battalion operations officer of the Second Battalion, Fourth Marines, Third Marine Division (Reinforced), Fleet Marine Force, in connection with operations against the enemy in the Republic of Vietnam on August 23 - 24, 1966; and

WHEREAS, as a colonel in the Marine Corps, Jack Hilgers was noted for cost effectiveness and comprehensive resources management by the United States General Accounting Office and the House of Representatives Appropriations Committee in 1987; and

WHEREAS, after retiring from the Marine Corps, Jack Hilgers continued a lifetime of public service by earning a Ph.D. in public administration and research with a minor in international relations from Old Dominion University (ODU) where he served for 10 years, established the ODU Maritime, Ports, and Logistics Management program, which is one of the few such initiatives in the world and is thriving after 25 years, and he later served on the ODU Board of Visitors; and

WHEREAS, from 1999 to 2007, Jack Hilgers served as legislative assistant to the Honorable Leo C. Wardrup, Jr., before joining the Department of Veterans Services (DVS); he played a key role in the 2002 study and 2003 legislation that established DVS and the Veteran Services Foundation (VSF) as separate agencies, as well as the Board of Veterans Services (BVS) and the Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations (JLC); and

WHEREAS, Jack Hilgers prompted the initiation of the bipartisan and highly popular Military and Veterans Caucus in the Virginia General Assembly and assisted with organizing and conducting its fully attended weekly meetings; and

WHEREAS, Jack Hilgers has been a legislative and organizational development advisor, involved every step of the way, as DVS, VSF, BVS, and JLC have evolved and grown, and he has contributed significantly to the success of the two agencies, the board, and the council; he continued to serve the Commonwealth's veterans with Leo Wardrup, who served as a VSF trustee after his retirement from public office; and

WHEREAS, Jack Hilgers demonstrated proven effectiveness in influencing public policy as a highly respected member of a team that successfully advocated for more than five dozen pieces of veterans and military-related legislation that was introduced, amended, and passed from 2006 until his retirement; and

WHEREAS, Jack Hilgers worked diligently to expand the services that DVS and VSF provide to Virginia's veterans and developed extensive joint policies and procedures that are still used by the department and the foundation today; and

WHEREAS, Jack Hilgers personally educated all the members of the VSF Board of Trustees in the

41 unique aspects of the foundation's philanthropic duties, even traveling from his home in Hampton Roads
42 to the Marine Corps Heritage Center in Quantico and points in western Virginia to orient new members;
43 and
44 WHEREAS, Jack Hilgers worked tirelessly to coordinate fundraising activities throughout the
45 Commonwealth and helped VSF secure more than \$3 million in donations to assist veterans and their
46 families; and
47 WHEREAS, as executive director of VSF, Jack Hilgers served with distinction as an "extraordinary
48 contributor" to both VSF and DVS, ensuring the integrity of the Commonwealth's trust and donors'
49 wishes since 2007; now, therefore, be it
50 RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly hereby
51 commend Colonel John Jack William Hilgers, USMC, Ret., for his lifetime of service to the
52 Commonwealth and Virginia's veterans on the occasion of his retirement; and, be it
53 RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates prepare a copy of this resolution
54 for presentation to Colonel John Jack William Hilgers, USMC, Ret., as an expression of the General
55 Assembly's admiration for his 31 years of service with the United States Marine Corps and 28 years of
56 service to the Commonwealth, demonstrating extraordinary leadership, professional skill, and an
57 unwavering commitment to the men and women of every branch of the United States Armed Forces and
58 Virginia.